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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Mexico, Portugal, Senegal and Switzerland: draft resolution

Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations as well as other relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1]

Reaffirming the obligation of States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and their full enjoyment by young people,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] and recognizing that the Declaration includes important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

Recalling and reaffirming the commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits held since 1990 and their follow-up processes, in particular those commitments that are related to youth, including youth employment,

Recognizing that the participation of young people is an asset and a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth and social development, and expressing deep concern about the magnitude of youth unemployment and underemployment throughout the world and its profound implications for the future of our societies, particularly those in developing countries,

Acknowledging that poverty, among other factors, represents a serious challenge to the full and effective participation and contribution of young people to society,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond annexed thereto,

[1] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[2] See resolution 55/2.

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Recalling also its resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which it took note with appreciation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998,[3] and its resolutions 56/117 of 19 December 2001 and 57/165 of 18 December 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "World Youth Report 2003"[4] and "Promoting youth employment";[5]

2. *Reaffirms* that the ten priority areas identified in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, namely, education, employment, hunger and poverty, health issues, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure, girls and young women, and youth participation, remain areas of crucial importance;

3. *Takes note* of the five issues of concern to young people identified in the World Youth Report 2003, namely, the mixed impact of globalization on young women and men, the use of and access to information and communication technologies, the dramatic increase of human immunodeficiency virus infections among young people and the impact of the epidemic on their lives, the active involvement of young people in armed conflict, both as victims and as perpetrators, and the increased importance of addressing intergenerational issues in an ageing society;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the full and effective participation of youth and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the World Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation, as well as the need to support the activities of mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights but different needs and strengths and are active agents for decision-making processes, positive change and development in society;

5. *Also recognizes* the great importance of empowering youth by building the capacity of young people to achieve greater independence, overcoming constraints to their participation and providing them with opportunities to make decisions that affect their lives and well-being;

6. *Calls upon* all Member States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make every possible effort to implement the World Programme of Action, aiming at cross-sectoral youth policies, by integrating a youth perspective into all planning and decision-making processes relevant to youth;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done by the regional commissions to implement the World Programme of Action, to follow up the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional non-governmental youth organizations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region, and encourages them to continue to do so;

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[3] See WCMRY/1998/28, chap. I, resolution 1.

[4] E/CN.5/2003/4; see also A/58/79.

[5] A/58/229.

8. *Recommends* that the United Nations system, based on the positive experience of youth participation in the work of the United Nations, inter alia, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly on children, continue to provide opportunities for dialogue between Governments and representatives of youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through forums, open-ended dialogues, meetings and debates;

9. *Decides* that the organization of a future world youth forum should be based on a decision emanating from the General Assembly;

10. *Notes* the decision by eight countries to volunteer as lead countries in the preparation of national reviews and action plans on youth employment;

11. *Encourages* Member States to prepare national reviews and action plans on youth employment, either integrated into their national action plans for employment or issued as a separate document, to make full use of existing data and statistics and to involve youth organizations and young people in this process, taking into account, inter alia, the commitments made by Member States in this regard, in particular those included in the World Programme of Action, bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

12. *Invites*, within the context of the Youth Employment Network, the International Labour Organization, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the World Bank and other relevant specialized agencies, to assist and support, upon request, the efforts of Governments in the elaboration of national reviews and action plans, and to undertake a global analysis and evaluation of progress made in this regard;

13. *Decides* to devote, at its sixtieth session, in 2005, two plenary meetings to review the situation of youth and achievements produced in the implementation of the World Programme of Action ten years after its adoption;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with regard to paragraph 4 above, to consider organizing a consultative meeting with youth organizations, taking into account equitable geographical distribution, on the evaluation of the progress made and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the World Programme of Action in preparation for the two plenary meetings of the General Assembly to be held in 2005, and to include the outcome of the meeting in his report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session;

15. *Invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions to encourage contributions;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the provision by some Member States of expertise and financial resources to support the activities of the Youth Employment Network, and invites all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Network in support of action taken at the country level within the framework of the Network;

17. *Reiterates* the call made in the World Programme of Action to Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus broadening the channels

of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth-related issues, and requests the Secretary-General to convey this invitation again to Member States;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session, with a comprehensive report including an evaluation of the implementation since 1995 of the priority areas of youth identified in the World Programme of Action, including actions taken by Member States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and youth organizations in their multidisciplinary work for and with youth;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the report requested in paragraph 18 above, to take into account the five concerns identified in paragraph 3 above in an annex to the report;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, in the context of the Youth Employment Network, to submit a global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.